

**Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting
16 December 2004**

Minutes

Attendees:

Steven Cavallo
Mike Israel
Gayle Fisher Stewart
Rajat Sen
Andy Kelemen

Absent:

Larry Rubin
Peter Kovar
Buddy Daniels
Wolfgang Mergner
Cindy Creamer, Chief TPPD

Minutes:

Andy Kelemen opened the meeting. There were no announcements.

Steve Cavallo provided a short report on the activities of the SOSCA Citizens Patrol, listing the achievements. Patrols have been active and several cars left on the street without Tags were ticketed. A meeting was held with City Staff to discuss how to better support and organize Citizen's Patrol in the City. Steve also identified people in the X-ray sector for special recognition for their outstanding role in support of Public Safety.

Finally, Steve formally recommended to PSCAC that all Citizen Patrols in the City of Takoma Park be placed under the authority of one civilian volunteer. He feels that such an arrangement would improve efficiency, and he is correct. We are not quite sure, however, how to make this happen. It certainly requires that each "patrol leader" buy into this concept. This means that someone must go and talk to them, a time consuming prospect. Perhaps this can be accomplished under the new Emergency Preparedness Committee?

Mike Israel shared with the committee an e-mail summarizing his findings of a study on community policing and recommends that Takoma Park would be a good candidate for community policing as described in these publications. He also mentioned that the Chief supports such an idea, although it was acknowledged that financial realities might preclude starting such a program.

The next item on the agenda was NSC Meeting preparation. Andy briefly reviewed the status and the committee in general expressed some reservation regarding the extent of planning and recruitment for attendance. Speakers need to be identified. Buddy Daniels and Steve Cavallo will be contacting the County and the Red Cross respectively to identify speakers. The location for the meeting must also be finalized. There was discussion about the extent of emergency preparedness issues that should be discussed at this meeting. The consensus being that this should be the focus of the NSC meeting.

The next item on the agenda was a discussion of the rejuvenation of the Community Center Committee. Discussion focused on the complex financing issues and the status of the proposed Gym at the Community Center. The issue of financing for the Community Center and the Gym was discussed in detail, including the roles being played by the Takoma Foundation and Sustainable Takoma. The Committee continues to strongly endorse the need for building a gym despite the financing difficulties. The Gym is expected to provide dividends in terms of public safety in that it will keep teenagers occupied after school and evening hours. It is also expected to be necessary as an aid in preventing or reducing gang participation. However, the Committee also strongly recommends that a realistic and adequate security plan be in place for both the Community Center and the Gym.

Andy pointed out there are vacancies on the Community Center Committee and urged stronger participation in that committee.

Finally, the Emergency Preparedness Committee and the Rebate Committee was also discussed. The roles of these two entities were emphasized in terms of their importance in Public Safety. The first because of its role the second because it deals with attempts to maintain or increase the rebates for the TPPD. The need for filling the vacancies in the Emergency Preparedness Committee was also highlighted.

Steve mentioned that he came across requirements stating that public buildings in Maryland are required to have defibrillators available on the premises. This is of interest to PSCAC since we have been trying to get the City to purchase such a device for the past couple of years without any success. If we can put our hands on this regulation, we will be able to make this happen. Steve promised that he would get hold of the pertinent regulations.

These minutes come to you through the good grace of Rajat Sen.